



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Louisiana Farm Reporter  
Volume 10 Number 11  
June 7, 2010



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Louisiana Field Office • 5825 Florida Blvd • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

(225) 922-1362 • (225)922-0744 FAX www.nass.usda.gov/la

### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter  
Average Prices Received by Farmers  
U.S. Farm Labor & Wage Rates

### Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

**Commercial red meat production** in Louisiana during April totaled 500,000 pounds, down 17 percent from March 2010 and the previous year.

There were 500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during April, unchanged from March but down 200 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 831 pounds, up 45 pounds from the previous month and 73 pounds above April 2009. Total live weight, at 394,000 pounds, was up three percent from the previous month but 24 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during April totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous month but up 100 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 534 pounds, down one pound from March but four pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 239,000 pounds, was up three percent from March and 80 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during April totaled 900 head, down 500 head from the previous month and the previous year. Average live weight was 201 pounds, down four pounds from March but 16 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 185,000 pounds, down 36 percent from March and 27 percent below the previous year.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during April was 300 head, down 100 head from the previous month and the previous year. Live weight averaged 76 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but 21 pounds above the previous year.

### United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.0 billion pounds in April, down two percent from the 4.1 billion pounds produced in April 2009.

**April 2010** contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays. **April 2009** contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.1 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, up three percent from April 2009. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,253 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 11.1 million pounds, one percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,500 head, up one percent from April 2009. The average live weight was down six pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.9 billion pounds, down four percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.1 million head, down four percent from April 2009. The average live weight was up one pound from the previous year, at 273 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.0 million pounds, was down 16 percent from April 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,700 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up one pound from April a year ago.

**January to April 2010 commercial red meat production** was 15.9 billion pounds, down two percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year; veal was down two percent; pork was down four percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down three percent.

### Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	March	April		January - April		April		January - April	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	0.5	0.7	0.5	2.6	1.8	2,772.6	2,847.1	10,748.2	11,014.6
Calves	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.2	1.7	68.0	68.5	306.6	305.1
Hogs	1.4	1.4	0.9	4.8	4.3	9,436.7	9,054.1	37,939.7	36,685.4
Sheep & Lambs	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.4	1.2	228.9	190.7	819.0	818.0
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	381	519	394	1,930	1,416	3,526,020	3,553,969	13,913,103	13,988,817
Calves	231	133	239	628	967	18,899	18,659	78,861	76,555
Hogs	290	254	185	980	853	2,565,380	2,466,226	10,306,911	9,953,408
Sheep & Lambs	28	22	21	96	89	30,801	25,972	114,600	111,725
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	786	758	831	742	787	1,276	1,253	1,299	1,275
Calves	535	530	534	523	569	281	275	261	254
Hogs	205	185	201	204	198	272	273	272	272
Sheep & Lambs	76	55	76	69	74	135	136	140	137
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.3	2.0	4,085.0	4,012.9	16,223.6	15,948.4

## May Farm Prices Received Index Up Three Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 141 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased three points from April. The Crop Index was up one point and the Livestock Index increased four points. Producers received higher prices for lettuce, broilers, hogs and strawberries and lower prices for onions, eggs, sweet corn and tomatoes. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of sweet corn, broilers, grapes and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples and corn.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 11 points from May 2009. The Food Commodities Index, at 142, increased three points from last month and increased 16 points from May 2009.

## Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The May Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 183 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index was unchanged from April but three points above May 2009. Higher prices in May for nitrogen, diesel, mixed fertilizer and hay & forages offset lower prices for complete feeds, concentrates, feeder pigs and feeder cattle.

## Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	May 2009	April 2010	May 2010 <sup>1</sup>	May 2009	April 2010	May 2010 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	10.80	9.32	2/	10.70	9.47	9.28
Sorghum, per cwt.	n/a	2/	2/	5.98	5.39	5.31
Rice, per cwt	12.80	13.00	13.40	14.60	13.80	14.10
Upland cotton, per pound	.453	.647	.656 <sup>3</sup>	.449	.662	.643 <sup>3</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	130.00	109.00	116.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	59.80	68.60	70.30	83.20	95.70	96.50
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	89.10	101.00	101.00	87.70	101.00	101.00
Cows, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	46.70	55.40	56.50	48.80	57.50	59.50
Calves, per cwt	97.40	114.00	112.00	111.00	122.00	123.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.490	.480	.510
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.617	.767	.633
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>6</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.60	14.60	15.00

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

<sup>4</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>5</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>6</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

## United States Farm Labor

There were 997,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2010, up ten percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 737,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 260,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.83 per hour during the April 2010 reference week, down one cent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.04 per hour, up five cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.31 per hour compared with \$10.25 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.13 per hour, was up six cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 for hired workers during the survey week, down one percent from a year ago.

### Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	April 12-18 2009	January 10-16 2010	April 11-17 2010	April 12-18 2009	January 10-16 2010 <sup>2</sup>	April 11-17 2010
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>737</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	<b>223</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>997</b>
150 Days or More	25	23	33	554	514	586
149 Days or Less	8	6	5	126	88	151
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>39.8</b>
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>9.85</b>	<b>9.85</b>	<b>10.84</b>	<b>11.05</b>	<b>10.83</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$9.30	\$8.86	\$9.37	\$9.99	\$10.09	\$10.04
Livestock	\$8.84	\$9.35	\$8.92	\$10.25	\$10.28	\$10.31

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> Revised

---Data not published.

*The Louisiana Farm Reporter is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by the USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, La 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038*

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USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office  
(225) 922-1362  
5825 Florida Blvd., P O Box 65038  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038